

Trustees Report 2024

Here are a few highlights and significant moments from 2024.

Sunday School – Our thriving and growing Sunday School had a full programme throughout the year with many highlights such as Prize Giving Sunday and Nativity Sunday.

Ignite Youth – We had a full programme and series of events for our young people throughout 2024. We meet every other Thursday and have various Bible teaching, visiting speakers, games, food and lots of fun. We also attend Freedom and all the Derry Raphoe Youth events such as the DRY Weekend and Summer Madness. In August we organised a trip to Castle Archdale Water Sports Centre. In October we especially enjoyed antics on the high wire course and zip wire at Oakfield. This work is bearing much fruit. Be encouraged and keep investing in our young people.

Silverdale and Parkview - Our pastoral care and monthly services of worship with hymns and prayers continue throughout the year in our local nursing homes. Praise the Lord!

JOY (Just Older Youth) - This luncheon club is a ministry of our church that meets on the last Tuesday of the month in Killeter Hall. We enjoy friendship, fellowship, fun and delicious food.

Holy Week and Easter 2024 – We held special Holy Week and Easter Services, including traditional Maundy Thursday Holy Communion, a Good Friday Family Service with Hot Cross buns, and all culminating in an Easter Praise Service with Holy Communion on Easter Sunday. Christ is Risen.

Mothers' Union – Our Mothers' Union had a full programme with lots of visiting speakers and a varied programme. Our wider Diocesan Mothers' Union continues to be a support to so many families throughout the North West. The Mothers Union are heroes of our church.

Golf and Football Tournaments - On Friday 24th May we held a Golf Classic Tournament at Newtown Stewart Golf Club and on Saturday 8th June we held a Football Tournament at Darragh Park. Both tournaments were fully subscribed and we raised considerable funds for our Future Fund. Sincere thanks to all who made these events run so well and to those who sponsored and took part.

Stars In Their Eyes BBQ - On Friday 14th June we once again took over the Derg Arms for our annual BBQ. This time we enjoyed a Stars In Their Eyes special with so many parishioners taking part as their favourite acts. What a night!!

Johnny Cash Special at the Apple Fair Thursday 24th October - Evangelist and musician David Kelly enthralled us with the music and Christian journey of the 'Man in Black.'

Remembrance 2024 - In addition to marking Remembrance at all services, this year we also marked the 80th anniversary of DDAY in a special way. DDAY 80 Heroes Remembered saw our community come together through music, readings and to hear a presentation that powerfully explained all that went into this remarkable campaign that turned the tide of the Second World War.

Robert Mizzell Christmas Gospel Concert – On Thursday 12th December we welcomed world class musicians to Derg Parish. The joy of the Lord was certainly present as Robert and his full band led us in many of our Christmas and gospel country favourites.

Advent and Christmas – The season began with the Christmas Lights Switch On at the Diamond. This is always a special evening as our community comes together to 'Light Up' for Christmas. We enjoyed a Sunday School Christmas Party with Santa and good old fashioned party games! We held a Christingle Service with Scripture Union in a packed to capacity church. We also enjoyed a concert led by Castlederg Community Choir. Our Carols by Candlelight service was such a special service in a packed to capacity church. We also enjoyed Christmas Eve Holy Communion and Christmas Day Family Worship.

Derg Parish Centre Update:

We are at a significant stage in our plans to build a new Parish Centre. All permissions are in place and our hard working and united Select Vestry, along with the support of our fundraising and management groups, are investigating every avenue in order to make it happen! We launched the project in June, 2022 with £48K in the building fund. This vision is now fast becoming a reality, with over half of the finances needed to bring this to fruition, now in place and more coming in all the time. We have applied to grant funders with two successes and several more pending. Uptake in the Parish has increased significantly with the Future Fund envelopes now part of the FWO systems - all this at a time when there are many challenges locally and globally. This is remarkable! May we keep taking steps as God leads us onwards into His future. The fruits of this effort will leave a lasting legacy for generations to come.

Mission Support.

Despite our fundraising efforts towards our new Parish Centre, we still managed to support the work of BCMS, Scripture Union, Tyrone Protestant Orphan Society, Royal British Legion, Bishops Appeal, SANDS, Air Ambulance and Open Doors.

Future Events:

Confirmation Service with Bishop Andrew – Thursday 5th June 7pm at St Bestius
Derg Valley Football Tournament at Darragh Park – Saturday 31st May (TBC)
Stars In Their Eyes BBQ at the Derg Arms – Friday 20th June.
Word of God Speaks Out to Me Harvest Special Friday 10th October 7:30pm at St Bestius.
Elvis 68 Comeback Special at the Apple Fair – Thursday 23rd October 7:30pm.
Carols by Candlelight – Sunday 21st December 7pm in Derg Parish Church.

Thank you for supporting the work of God through our Free Will Offering and Building Fund, whether you use the weekly envelopes or online standing order systems. We are always happy to welcome new contributors and also young parishioners who are now entering the workplace.

If you need any pastoral care or know of any who do, please do contact Rev Claire or myself anytime.

We remember those who have lost loved ones in the last year and rest in the hope we have in Jesus.

Peter